

CLITHEROE *La*
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

T. THORNTON MACKLIN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR 1909

Webwell, Typ.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report
for the year 1909.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. THORNTON MACKLIN.



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ANNUAL REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

The year 1909 has left very few pleasant recollections behind so far as the weather is concerned. It stands out most prominently as a year marked by an almost continual rainfall and a general sodden and sloppy condition of the ground. There were very few bright intervals and they were of the briefest duration. On the whole it has been a dreary and a weary year. There was but little opportunity for the factory employee to benefit by his holiday season so far as open air exercise in bright sunny weather is concerned. Such a state of things proves very detrimental to the workman who has generally to spend many long hours in a somewhat close and stuffy atmosphere engendered by the nature of his occupation, even though the conditions obtaining as regards ventilation in most workshops and factories have been very much improved upon in late years, compared to what was at one time the case. The annual holiday, rest and

cessation from labour, which is so important for the average workman in helping to maintain his health and vigour and fitness for work, was for the year under review, almost entirely lost owing to the inclemency of the summer season, which but for a brief fortnight in August, was most depressing and wretched in the extreme.

The population of this district is made up of two distinct classes of industry. Farming and pursuits appertaining to the same, employ a considerable number of the community on the one hand and on the other very many are employed in factories and workshops of various kinds. Then a certain proportion are occupied in shops in the different towns and villages scattered throughout the district. None of the varying occupations seem to have any marked effect upon the health of the community, so that no one particular form of ailment or disease can be ascribed to the nature of the industry.

It may be that the agricultural group of the community is more subject to rheumatic troubles than those employed in factories, and perhaps anæmia amongst the young women in workshops, and respiratory affections among all ranks of factory hands, is more common than amongst the agriculturalist, but in no case is the distinction so marked as to enable one to attribute the affection to be clearly due to the nature of the employment in which they are engaged.

Dyspepsia is undoubtedly the most protean form of trouble in the district, but it is not confined to any one class in the community for it is common to all, and is due very largely to the pernicious custom of drinking tea at all hours of the day and with all meals. Hurried preparation of meals which means insufficiently or improperly cooked food is also very much to blame. Nor can this be wondered at for very often the cook of the household is also employed at the factory, and has to do her cooking and preparation of food after her arrival home, while the other

members of the family are hovering around clamouring to be fed not to mention the fact that she herself is probably just as eager as they are to satisfy the demands of hunger. In such circumstances even the best of food is in great danger of being spoiled in the cooking, while in very many instances the best food has not been selected.

Tinned Salmon is not uncommonly to be seen on such tables as I have indicated, and this is most indigestible, especially when washed down with large draughts of bitter black tea. The food such as it is, is very frequently bolted without sufficient mastication or time enough being given to the proper mixing of the saliva with the food, so that the stomach is charged with a large part of the duty that the mouth should have performed, in addition to its own proper work. The stomach very naturally rebels against this kind of treatment and in process of time refusing to do the work it is not properly fitted for, and in fact is unable to undertake, the result is that indigestion reigns supreme with all its attendant discomforts and disabilities.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

I do not think that there is much, if any, defect in this respect in this district. There certainly appears to be a sufficiency of houses as regards number, and very many of them are new and properly supplied with the necessary sanitary conveniences. They are not at all unduly crowded together and have ample open space about them. In some of the older villages and in regard to some of the older properties this, however, is not the case. In several cases the houses are small, pokey and dark, the darkness very often being due to the crowding together of too many houses in an unduly limited space. This may be seen at Wiswell, for example, where for want of sufficient open space cleanliness cannot be efficiently maintained, and in some cases the sun cannot find entrance to the dwelling at all. Such old buildings will gradually give place to newer ones erected under conditions

which are more in accordance with modern ideas of what is required for the maintenance of health and the general well being and comfort of the people.

No action has been taken, nor has any been specially needed under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts during 1909.

NEW BUILDINGS.

CHATBURN.

In this village 13 new Houses have been built off Downham Road and fronting the Back Lane. These have been put up according to the requirements of the District Council.

BARROW.

In this village 8 Back-Kitchens have been built as additions to certain houses in Cockerill Terrace.

WHALLEY.

Under the Asylums Board and in connection with the new Asylum about to be built on the Whalley Moor near this village 13 new Houses have been erected but are not yet in a state of completion.

Building generally has not been going on so rapidly in 1909 as in 1907. The additions made in the last two years have not been so numerous as in former years.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

BARROW.

Improvements have taken place here as 11 Privies have been reconstructed and altered to the waste water flushing system. 3 of these alterations took place in Abbey Terrace and 8 in Cockerill Terrace.

CHATBURN.

In Downham Road three Privies have been re-constructed and altered to the Pail System.

In the 18 new houses which have been erected, the Closets have been placed on the waste water flushing system.

Considerable improvements also have been made to the Vicarage here. Some new slop water drains have been laid, sanitary pipes have been used with trapped gullies. Then some drains which were defective have been rectified. In addition two new fresh Water Closets have been introduced.

CHIPPING.

The sanitary arrangements at Judd Holme Farm have been much improved. New slop water drains have been laid, communicating with a settling tank which has been put down quite 200 yards away from the house.

In addition to the above a large new Tank for the purpose of receiving the Sewage from the Shippons and other Farm Buildings has been provided, all of which have involved considerable expense.

WHALLEY.

On the south side of Nethertown, a new branch Sewer has been laid, to which has been connected drains from the Closets of five new houses and also one Laundry.

In this village also two Privies have been reconstructed and put upon the waste water flushing system.

Then several faulty house and closet drains have been put into proper order.

With reference to the district generally, the condition of

sewers and house drains is on the whole good, and as shown above wherever defects are found they are remedied without any unnecessary delay. From time to time as opportunities offer, improvements are carried out according to the circumstances of the case. It is true, progress is but slow, changes for the better are not always easily carried out amongst a rural community which has been accustomed for generations to a certain condition of things about which they see no great necessity for improvement. Each and every year some advance is being made though not with the degree of rapidity that strict sanitarians might desire, or upon which they might feel inclined to insist.

PRIVY MIDDENS.

In regard to the matter of Privy Middens, about which I have had so much to say in former Reports and which I have condemned in no unsparing manner, there is not so much to report in the way of reduction in numbers as I could have wished for and had anticipated, still something has been done in this direction. At the close of 1908 there were 913 in various parts of the district, and now the number has been reduced to 895, the greatest number of conversions and alterations being made in the village of Barrow where 11 of these awful abominations have been abolished. Chatburn has the credit of getting rid of three and the ancient village of Whalley two.

It is in places like Chatburn and Whalley that such improvements should be made most rapidly, and it is not at all to the credit and good reputation of those places that so little comparatively speaking, is being done to rid themselves of the reproach of harbouring such evil smelling and filthy institutions within their borders. The number of privy middens still remaining in Clitheroe is 108, and in Whalley 72. I earnestly hope I may have the great pleasure of reporting to the Council in my next Report that these have been materially reduced.

In the more outlying parts of the district one cannot look for or expect very rapid progress to be made in this direction nevertheless Chipping might very advantageously reduce the number of its privy middens to something below 169, which is the number still to be found there.

WATER CLOSETS.

In my last report I was able to record the number of fresh Water Closets as 255, and I find that for this report two only can be added to the number, making a total of 257.

Aighton possesses by far the largest number, there being 140 in this township, due very probably to the fact that Stonyhurst College lies within its boundaries. Whalley has 68 and Chatburn 31, as both these places have a good system of drainage there is some prospect of the numbers increasing.

WASTE WATER CLOSETS.

The number of these in 1903 was 273, and in 1909 the numbers has been increased to 302. This is a very popular method of disposing of sewerage in Whalley, where there are no fewer than 129. In Chatburn there are 60, and in Barrow 41. There is much to be said in favour of this system where the Water Supply is abundant and supervision efficient.

PAIL SYSTEM.

This is a clean, simple and safe method of disposal, and very suitable for quiet country places, where there is no drainage system. Of course a certain amount of garden or waste ground is essential for the proper carrying out of the system, but this is generally very abundantly available in most places at a distance from towns. In 1908 there were 117 places where pails were used and to this has now to be added 4, making a total of 121 for 1909.

On the whole some progress has been made in the matter of improved sanitation in the various parts of the district, and the Council will have the satisfaction of knowing that this aspect of Public Health work is not absolutely at a stand still.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Things in this respect remain much the same from year to year. The Ribble and Hodder are entirely free from any gross impurities, so that in them one may bathe with impunity during the summer months.

Fish also are to be found in greater or less abundance which proves that the waters are comparatively pure and sweet.

The Calder unfortunately cannot be included in this category for it is very much polluted at times, and in summer when the waters are low and when the sun shines out strongly there is some times an offensive effluvium given off which is, to say the least, anything but pleasant for those living near by, or for such as may desire to wander along its banks. This unpleasantness was not at all noticeable during 1909, as the water never fell very low, owing to the wet summer, nor was the sun overpoweringly strong at any period of the year.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The disposal of house refuse is performed by the Sanitary Authority in the villages of Chatburn, Chipping, Barrow and Wiswell, either through a Contractor or by the Council's men, and where so done the duty is carried out for the most part quite satisfactorily.

In Whalley and Hurst Green owners and occupiers are responsible for the removal, with the result that the duty is sometimes neglected or very inefficiently attended to.

NUISANCE.

The Inspector of Nuisances reports that very few notices are now required to be served on occupiers for abatement of Nuisance since the scavenging system was introduced at Chatburn, Chipping, Barrow and Wiswell. At Chatburn and Chipping the work has been carried out by the contractors in a satisfactory manner.

At Barrow and Wiswell the Scavenging is carried out by the Council's men every week.

It might prove to be advantageous if the Council assumed the responsibility of Scavenging in both Whalley and Hurst Green, when the whole district would then be under one system, and if difficulties arose they could be more easily rectified.

There were two notices served during the year 1909. One on an Owner in Chipping for new sanitary drains to be laid down, and a tank to be provided, and one notice in Hurst Green for abatement of Nuisance.

Then in Chipping 4 verbal notices for abatement of nuisances were given, also in Chatburn 4 verbal notices were given, 3 in Pendleton and 5 in Whalley.

The Inspector of Nuisances also records that several owners of property have agreed to make structural alterations of privies without having to be served with notice.

Speaking generally the character of drainage throughout the district is quite good. The form of sewerage disposal is by means of irrigation works and settling tanks in most places of any importance.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 9 Slaughter houses in the district and they are distributed as follows :—Whalley, 2; Chipping, 2; Downham, 2; Chatburn, 1; Stonyhurst, 1, and Hurst Green, 1.

The Inspector of Nuisances reports that they have all been kept clean, the walls well limewashed from time to time, and the floors well swilled with water after killing. Several of the Butchers have been warned about the necessity for immediate removal of garbage after killing is over.

LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered Lodging Houses in the district.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 39 of these registered in the district, which is one in excess of the previous year. Upon the whole the premises of all parties have been kept in very good order and fairly clean. The shippens and provender stores have been well limewashed during the summer season when the cattle were out at grass.

There has been no lack of water on any of the farms during the year, in fact in most places there was a super abundance.

From amongst the above number of 39 registered milk purveyors, two farmers have given up selling milk as such, and are now engaged in cheese making.

The Inspector of Nuisances reports he has no reason to suspect the presence of any cattle in the district afflicted with Tuberculosis in the udder or otherwise.

In the matter of examination of Dairy Cows by Veterinary Surgeons nothing has been done by the Council, but I believe that the Sanitary Authority of Liverpool has had Veterinary Surgeons in the district visiting certain farms. I have, however, not been informed of their visit nor have I received any notification of any kind on the subject. It is quite probable that if regular visits of inspection were made by Veterinary Surgeons to the farms within the district from time to time some cases of tuberculous disease amongst cows might be found, but hitherto nothing of this kind has been done by the Council, nor do I understand that such action is contemplated at present.

No regulations under the L.G.B., have been made with regard to the above, but the District Council insists on a minimum of 500 cubic feet per cow in the shippens.

Up to the present the Council have made no definite arrangements for Meat Inspection and no special instructions have been issued with regard to the matter. The Inspector of Nuisances does not possess any special certificate qualifying him for Meat Inspector. In a general way the Slaughterhouses are visited at intervals, and sometimes when killing and cutting up is going on, the meat is examined, but no special knowledge is claimed by him. He acts according to the best of his judgement, and, as already shown, he has seen nothing to lead him to condemn any meat during 1909.

There has been no seizure of food unfit for human consumption during 1909:

WATER SUPPLY.

In most localities there are Waterworks which furnish an abundant and wholesome supply of water, though in many cases very hard, except in Chipping and Wiswell.

The water supply in the different localities is open to inspection at all times.

In regard to Wiswell there is a scheme now on foot for the purpose of supplying this village with a good quality of water drawn from a gathering ground high up on Wiswell Moor, which ought to furnish a sufficient quantity for the ordinary requirements of the people.

Two samples were obtained from the open stream which drains the gathering ground I have referred to above, one of the samples was taken at a high level far above any accidental pollution by cattle, or manuring of fields. The second sample was taken at a lower level where there was some possibility of

the stream being affected by the surface drainage of manured fields or possible contamination by cattle.

According to the analysis of No. 1 sample there is an excess of organic nitrogenous matter which appears to be of vegetable origin, but otherwise the water is quite suitable for domestic purposes, and would be of very pure quality if the influx of water containing decomposing grass, or other vegetable material, could be kept out.

No. II Sample is the same water taken at a lower level after flowing down a brook with a rough stony bottom and where it had every opportunity of being fully exposed to the air. The analytical report is that the water is soft and organically pure. This is very satisfactory as it was feared there might be some possible contamination from the source indicated above. A dam can be constructed across the stream at a suitable point on the brook a little lower down than where the No. 2 Sample was drawn from, which should provide a reservoir large enough for the requirements of the village during such duration of dry weather as may be anticipated in the neighbourhood of Pendle Hill. The stream for some distance above the reservoir should be led through pipes so as to prevent any risk from accidental contamination within the danger zone referred to above.

If this is done Wiswell will have a water supply which is likely to meet all the reasonable requirements of the population and which will probably compare very favourably with many in the district.

Chipping, I understand, refuses to accept a good water supply which can be furnished I believe, at a reasonable cost drawn from the same source from which the Camp used to obtain its supply in former years. I believe there are no difficulties in the way except the one which has been raised on the score of expense.

It may be interesting here to give the analysis of a sample of water taken from a pump at Hesketh Lane, Chipping, which shows a remarkable degree of impurity and giving every indication of serious contamination.

Total solid matter	26.00 grains	per gallon.
Chlorine (combined)	1.50	do.
Nitrate	present.	
Nitrogen as Nitrate	0.0485	do.
Free Ammonia	0.3360	do.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0014	do.
Total Hardness (Clarke's Scale)	20.00	

In spite of the many proofs of the utter badness of the water, and the deficiency in quantity which prevails except in wet years, the people are still content to go on drinking gross impurities, and running the risk of an outbreak of epidemic disease, which in the end would probably cost them far more than any expense likely to be incurred in now, providing themselves with a perennially sufficient and pure supply of drinking water.

I am given to understand that an Engineer is preparing a plan, and also furnishing an estimate of the cost that a supply to Chipping, including Hesketh Lane would involve. Perhaps when the Parish Council and the Ratepayers have this estimate before them, they may come to take a more reasonable view of the matter, and ultimately decide to accept the proposal that will then be made.

In Worston a new Water main has been laid through the village, conveying an excellent Water Supply, for which the village indebted to Mr. Assheton. Some 20 houses and several farms now draw their supply from this source.

SCHOOLS

Most of the Schools of the district were inspected by me during the year, and were found to be fairly satisfactory on the whole, though nearly all of them showed defects of one kind or another, to which I will now refer in greater detail

BARROW CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL

This School was inspected by me on the 3rd May. At the time of my visit the children were all out of doors, but in spite of this I found all the rooms rather stuffy and close. Not one of the windows was open, and the ventilators were either defective or not in working order.

The Infants Class Room is well lighted and bright, and the light falls across the desks from the left which is the most suitable direction for school work.

The other two rooms are somewhat dark, all or nearly all the windows being to the north' except one which is high up and to the east. Dull glass too, is used in one or more of the windows.

The Urinals though sufficient as regards accommodation were not very clean and certainly might be better looked after. The closets are sufficient for all necessary requirements but are not very satisfactory as they have fixed receptacles and therefore cannot be cleaned out so frequently and readily as where movable buckets or pails are provided. The plaster on the walls of one was very much broken and it had a dirty and uncared for look.

PENDLETON AND MEARLEY C.E. SCHOOL.

This School was inspected on the 9th of June. The schoolroom was fairly satisfactory as regards ventilation and lighting, but the heating was not all that could be desired. The

Register showed that in the morning, at all events, the temperature was rather low for comfort, and scholars complained of being cold.

The sanitary arrangements admit of some improvement.

The closets are simply privies and are cleaned out at very irregular intervals, and probably not very frequently.

Moreover the closets are not properly ventilated, and are quite dark if the doors are shut. The seats are too high for all children and more especially so for the very young. A stool or bench for the feet should be provided. The urinal for boys was not very clean and the smell from it rather strong.

BRABIN'S ENDOWMENT SCHOOL, CHIPPING.

This is a well built, lofty and commodious school, and the lighting is very satisfactory. I am of opinion, however, that the ventilation is not so perfect as it might be. The inlets for fresh air are hardly sufficient for the requirements of a school having so many scholars. The cloak room accommodation appears to be hardly sufficient for all requirements. Then too, the arrangements for a water supply are far from satisfactory. There was no vessel at hand for drinking purposes, no convenience for washing hands and face, no supply of soap and no towel. In short, the means necessary for inculcating habits of cleanliness were remarkable by their absence. This is a great defect, for it is not a virtue easily taught by theory alone. I found an uncovered ashpit of large size in one corner of the boys playground which was rather full and which had not been emptied and cleaned out for a long time. Considering the situation it should be roofed over and closed in. The playground was thickly covered over with loose gravel, which while it insures dryness does not conduce to games involving running and jumping or playing marbles, which boys generally engage in with delight.

The school is a fine one and all its arrangements should be as near perfection as possible.

CHAIGLEY ENDOWED SCHOOL.

This is but a small school and the building appears to be an old one, consisting practically of one room. The ventilation appears to be good and the heating arrangements quite satisfactory. I found a jug of water and basin with towel conveniently situated for the children. The water supply is drawn from a brook near by. There did not appear to be any vessel at hand for drinking purposes but one can be easily got when wanted.

The sanitary accommodation consisted of Privies which are cleaned out about once a year ; no such arrangement can be anything but offensive in greater or less degree, but in this instance I am glad to be able to say the degree of offensiveness was not very high.

ST. MARY'S R.C. SCHOOL, CHIPPING.

This School is practically one large apartment and is well lighted by large windows. The ventilation of the School is by means of the windows which is rather an unsatisfactory arrangement, as the tendency is to keep them closed when the weather is cold or the wind high. The children sitting near the windows complain of it being cold with them open, and more especially when the heating apparatus is in operation. Then if the windows are closed the room becomes very hot and stuffy.

During wet weather when the children very frequently arrive with their upper garments wet the room becomes very steamy and unpleasant, because the wet clothes are hung about the heating apparatus to dry,

There appears to be but one extractor for foul air in the roof and this is situated over the cloak room at one end of the school.

The convenience for obtaining drinking water and for washing purposes are sufficiently good.

The sanitary arrangements are not very good, especially on the girls side. They are privies and consequently objectionable on that ground alone, but in addition they lie low and are damp. They are said to be regularly cleaned out.

The other Schools in the district were also visited by me, but I do not propose to make any special reference to them at this time except to say that in all of them there were matters found where there was room for improvement but of course with much that was commendable.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are now 39 in the district, while in 1908 the total number was 35.

A complete list is furnished on the Home Office Form No. 572, a copy of which herewith accompanies this report for your information.

In the course of the year 50 inspections were made by the Inspector of Nuisance and myself, but nothing of any moment was found to which to call your attention especially, or about which to make any report.

There are apparently no outworkers employed within the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the district in statute acres is 31,338, and the population is 5845, which is equal to 5.362 persons per acre.

In these circumstances there need be no overcrowding of any kind as there is abundant room for every individual.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses at the last census was 1427, which is practically equal to an average of 4.10 persons per house, so that in this case also there is no evidence of any overcrowding taking place, though of course it by no means proves that there may not exist instances of overcrowding in some few places.

No cases have been reported to me, and I have not discovered any during occasional tours through the district.

BIRTHS.

There were 128 Births registered during the year 1909, which is 4 more than for the previous year.

The number of males born was 65, and the number of females 63. As a rule the number of male births exceed females by a much larger figure than 2. In 1908 there was a predominance of 16 male births over female, which disparity was much more in accordance with the general order of things than obtains this year.

There was but 1 illegitimate birth registered during the year, while last year there were 2. It would have been preferable had there been none. It is however, satisfactory so far as it goes.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate for the year under review is 21.90 per 1000 of the population. This is 0.70 higher than for 1908, and is 1.60 higher than the average for the last ten years.

This is very satisfactory and if it is an indication of a general improvement in this respect, it is an extremely healthy sign both physically, morally and one might add economically. It is to be borne in mind, however, that improvement though

it be, it is still much below the measure of fecundity displayed by rural districts in England generally.

The figures for the year 1909, as issued by the Registrar General, are 25·60 per 1000 of the population for Rural England, consequently the district is 3·70 below the average.

DEATHS.

The number of Deaths registered within the district in 1909 was 81, but to this number has to be added two, which occurred in Public Institutions outside the district, which makes the nett number of Deaths belonging to the district to be 83. The number of male deaths registered was 49, and the number of females 34, and this is quite in accordance with expectation and general experience, for as a general rule, except in abnormal localities where very few men are to be found, the deaths of males exceed the females. On this occasion the difference is somewhat high, being no less than 15 in number, whereas in 1908 the difference was only 6, while in 1907 the order was reversed, and there were 4 more female deaths than males.

DEATH RATE.

There having occurred 83 Deaths, the Death Rate is therefore 14·20 per 1000 of the population. This is lower by 1·20 per 1000 than the rate for the preceding year, but on the other hand is higher than the average by 1·60 for the last ten years. It is higher also than the Death Rate for Rural England, which was 13·60, the difference being 00·60.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

I am glad to be able to state there is again some improvement in this rate, for the number of Infants under 1 year of age whose deaths were registered in 1909 was eight only, and this is two less than for the previous year when there were ten. Only once in the last ten years has a better result been shewn and that was in 1904 when there were 7 only. In 1905 the number was the same as for this year, and again in 1902. The average for the last 10 years is 13·00.

The rate of mortality of Infants is thus shewn to be 78·14 per 1000 of births. This as compared with the ten years average is a very great improvement. The difference being no less than 19·15. The relative figures appearing as 97·29, and 78·14 respectively. It may be well for me to point out again that the Infantile death rate is calculated according to the number of births in the year, and not upon the population of the district. Thus 78·14 per 1000 of births means that if there had been 1000 births in the district then 78 children out of that number would have died before reaching 1 year of age.

This number, though not so high as that for the country as a whole viz :—98·00 is still too high, and means an appalling waste of life which might be very largely prevented if only women were better educated as to the proper manner in which to treat and rear infants in the early months of life when they are as yet but tender plants, and while the smallest indiscretion may prove to be the forerunner of disaster and possibly death.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

There were 2 Deaths registered in 1909 as occurring from some one or more of the seven principal epidemic diseases and this is equal to a death rate of 0·343 per 1000 of the population, and is exactly half what it was in 1908. This is quite satisfactory and compares very favourably with many places and with England as a whole, which was 0·80 in 1909.

The two deaths were due to Whooping Cough in one instance and Diarrhœa in the other.

TABLE I.

This Table does not require very much explanation. It is a summary of the vital statistics of the whole district for the year 1909 and for the ten [preceding years. The averages of the ten previous years are shewn also, and these appear

immediately above the figures for the year under review so that comparisons are easily made. It is probable, however, that the population of the district, after diminishing steadily for many years is again on the increase, at all events the Census for 1911 will put this to the proof.

In Columns 9 to 13 only 6 previous years statistics are available but this defect will remedy itself as the years roll on.

This Table also shews the area of the district in acres, the number of Inhabited Houses and the average number of persons per house.

This Table again shews on the back information regarding Public Institutions outside and inside the district receiving sick and infirm persons either coming from within or without the district.

Regarding Column 1 we have at present no Institution within the district receiving sick and infirm persons from without the district. While as regards Column 2, there are, of course, numerous Institutions outside the district receiving sick and infirm persons from within the district, viz: Clitheroe Workhouse, Blackburn Infirmary and various Asylums.

TABLE II.

This table shows the vital statistics of the separate localities, and also of the whole district, so that each of the separate localities may be compared, the one with the other and also each with the figures for the whole district. The figures for this year are given and the averages of the ten years, and below this the figures of the present year are shown.

It will be seen that for 1909 there were 128 births, which is just two less than the average number for the last ten years, this shows that the tendency for the Birth Rate is to fall, and

this is the common experience throughout the country at large. So far as Chipping and Clitheroe are concerned the number of births for the year under review and the average for the last ten years is practically the same, the figures being for Chipping 55 and 55·20 respectively, and for Clitheroe 27 as against 26·60 average. In Whalley on the other hand the number 46 for 1909 as against an average of 49·60, shews a distinct falling off in fecundity.

Then as regards deaths it is satisfactory to notice that the number for 1909 is considerably less than the average, the figures being 83 and 89·5 respectively for the whole district. In Chipping, however, the figures are reversed. There were 42 deaths in 1909, and the ten years average is only 36·60 which shows an upward tendency.

In Clitheroe the tendency to a lower Death Rate is quite distinct, for there were 16 in 1909, as against an average of 19·30 for the preceding ten years.

It is in the Whalley district however, that the most marked difference shows itself, for the number for 1909 is 23 only, as against an average of 36·00 for the previous ten years. This improvement in the case of Whalley dates back to 1902, from which date there has been a steady improvement, while previous to that the Death Rate was distinctly high.

Then the Infantile Mortality Rate is steadily improving, so far as the district as a whole is concerned, and also as regards its several divisions, which let us hope points to increasing knowledge on the part of mothers and nurses on the proper rearing of infants.

There is certainly still room and much room for improvement in the matter of infant feeding, and mothers cannot learn too much on the subject of the care and treatment of their off-

spring in the early months of life, when so very little may turn the balance in favour of health, strength and well being, or adversely towards suffering and disease and death.

There were 10 deaths this year as against an average of 12.90 for previous 10 years, & certainly since 1902 the tendency has been for the death rate to go down, which tendency it is to be earnestly hoped may continue through the coming year.

In Chipping six infants under 1 year of age died in 1909 as compared with an average of 5.30 for the previous 10 years. This of course does not show any downward tendency, but it is the only division in which there has been the slightest rise. In Clitheroe there was one death only, as against an average of three in past years. While in Whalley there were three deaths as compared to an average of 4.60 for the past ten years. This is quite satisfactory and I hope there may be a continuance of this improved state of affairs.

To sum up, the Infantile Mortality Rate for

Chipping is 109.00 per 1000 of Births.			
Clitheroe	37.00	„	„
Whalley	60.99	„	„
District	78.14	„	„
Rural England	98.00	„	„

TABLE III.

This Table shews the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

It is also intended to shew the ages at which the cases occur according to certain groups, but unfortunately the information in regard to age is very rarely given, so that I am quite unable to complete the table in a manner satisfactory either to myself or others.

All Medical Men notifying should state the age of the patient, but in as much as all the printed forms supplied for notifying purposes do not indicate "age" on the face of it, they cannot be held responsible for their neglect to do so.

There were 29 cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1909, of which number 22 were cases of Scarlet Fever and 7 were cases of Erysipelas. These were distributed as follows:

In Chipping there were 6 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Erysipelas. In Clitheroe there were 4 cases of Erysipelas and none of Scarlet Fever.

In Whalley there were 16 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Erysipelas. The Scarlet Fever cases were all very mild in type. The measures by means of which the disease was prevented from spreading and becoming widely epidemic were strict isolation at home and the free use of disinfectants. The villages of Barrow and Wiswell were the chief sufferers, but in neither case was it necessary to advise the closing of the School.

This Table also shews what Isolation Hospital accommodation there is for the district and where it is situated, also the number of beds available and the number of diseases which can be concurrently treated. In the case of the Rural District of Clitheroe there is joint Hospital accommodation for Smallpox only in conjunction with the Borough of Clitheroe and the total number of beds available is 12. As the hospital is for Smallpox no other disease can be treated there.

TABLE IV.

This Table shews the causes of, and ages at death, according to certain age groups during the year 1909. The localities also and the number occurring in each locality is shewn.

The causes of death in greater detail are herein dealt with and will be more fully discussed below.

There was 1 Death only from Whooping Cough during the year, and it occurred in a child under 5 years of age and who belonged to the Sub-district of Clitheroe.

There were 2 deaths due to Epidemic Influenza and both occurred in persons under 65 years of age—one of whom belonged to Chipping and one to Clitheroe.

In 1908 there were no less than 6 deaths from this cause so it is probable the disease was less extensively epidemic in the year under review than in the previous year.

Passing by without comment the next two or three causes of death given in the table in which a single case of death for each cause has been registered, we come to Phthisis, and here we find there were 4 Deaths registered from this dire scourge of the human race during 1909. Three of these cases occurred in the Chipping Sub-District and one in Whalley. As compared with the previous year a great improvement is shown, for in 1908 no fewer than 9 deaths were recorded from this plague.

It must be born in mind, however, that this insidious disease is no longer the fearfully hopeless evil it was at one time considered to be, and which very often swept away whole families into oblivion. Now a days if recognised in time so that treatment can be undertaken in its early stages, there is every hope of the sufferer making a good recovery and proving a useful life to the community.

Then there were two deaths from other forms of Tuberculous Disease, one of which occurred in an infant under one year of age, and the other in a somewhat elderly person. Both cases belonged to Chipping.

Cancer claimed two victims, both being over 65 years of age, and both belonging to the sub-district of Chipping.

In 1908 there were four deaths from the same cause, and in that year also all the cases but one belonged to Chipping.

Bronchitis proved to be rather fatal, as there were six deaths from this cause, all but one of which occurred amongst aged people over 65 years of age, the one exception being under five years of age. Five of the deaths belonged to Chipping and one to Clitheroe. In 1908 there were eight deaths from this same cause.

Pneumonia was the cause of ten deaths during 1909, and this is exactly double the number which occurred from the same cause in the previous year. The early part of the year was exceedingly trying and there was an unusual number of cases of Pneumonia, which of course accounts for the great increase in the number of fatalities.

One remarkable feature of the deaths from Pneumonia was the sudden onslaught of the disease and the rapidity with which many of the cases succumbed, without as it were, the smallest opportunity being given to combat its destructive powers and progress. No less than six of the deaths occurred during the best years of life, between the ages of 20 and 40. In two cases the victims of this virulent complaint were well advanced in life, over 65 years of age, and two were quite young children under 5 years of age. In Chipping there were 5 deaths, in Clitheroe 2, and in Whalley, 3.

PREMATURE BIRTH accounted for 5 deaths and 4 of that number occurred in Chipping, and 1 in Whalley. This is more than double the number of 1908.

HEART DISEASE accounted for quite a large number of deaths, there having been 12 registered as from this cause

in the district. They were all adults and at least 3 were among aged people. Of this number 5 occurred in Chipping, 4 in Clitheroe and 3 in Whalley.

The number of deaths from this cause in 1908 was less than half, 5 only having occurred, which goes to shew how very variable the incidence of disease is from year to year

ACCIDENT.

There was 1 death from accident which occurred in Clitheroe. There were 4 deaths due to accident in 1908.

SUICIDE.

There was one case of Suicide which occurred in Chipping.

SENILITY.

Old age was the only cause given in 9 instances and these were distributed as follows, 6 in Chipping, 2 in Clitheroe, and 1 in Whalley.

In 1908 there were 12 deaths attributed to this cause.

RENAL DISEASE.

Five deaths were attributable to some form of Kidney disease, and of that number 3 were old people and 2 in middle life. There was 1 each in Chipping and Clitheroe and 3 in Whalley.

INQUESTS.

There were 2 Inquests of which one took place in Clitheroe and 1 in Whalley. In 1908 there were no fewer than 5 Inquests in the district.

ALL OTHER CAUSES.

There were 17 deaths from variable causes which do not require any special differentiation.

TABLE V.

This Table shows Infantile Mortality during the year and gives the deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under 1 year of age.

As already shewn in an earlier part of the Report there were 10 deaths under 1 year of age. This table shews they were all certified. It also shews that of the ten there were 7 which took place within the first month of life, and of the 7 no less than 4 occurred within the first week of life. Three of these were due to premature birth and 1 to convulsions. One occurred in the second week of life and it was due to premature birth. Then there were two deaths in the third week, one being due to premature birth and the other to some other cause not specified.

In the second month of life there was 1 death due to Gastro-Enteritis which is one of the diarrhoeal group of diseases. Then in the third month was 1 death from an unspecified cause, and finally in the fourth month of life there was one death from Tuberculous Peritonitis. Thus the 10 deaths under 1 year of age are accounted for.

The table also gives the number of Births in the year, and distinguishes between legitimate and illegitimate of which latter there is only 1 in the total of 128.

The table also distinguishes between deaths of legitimate and illegitimate infants under 1 year of age. Finally, it gives the total number of deaths from all causes at all ages.

Lastly there is the Table or Form No. 572, furnished by the Home Office for the purpose of tabulating the results of the Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces within the District. To this I have already referred in a previous part of this Report.

The Table is very nearly a blank, as practically no defects were found about which it was necessary to make any comment.

There is not any other matter, which at this time I think it desirable to bring under your notice in connection with any of the tables which accompany my report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. THORNTON MACKLIN,

M.D., D.P.H., M.O.H.

Whalley, Feb. 12th, 1910.

